



# The Civic Courier

The Women's Civic Club  
of Panama City Beach,  
Inc.

Volume XIII- Issue 1  
September 2023



**Nancy Stovall**

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

Respect - admire (someone or something) deeply, as a result of their abilities, qualities, or achievements. The commitment and effort of each member of the Women's Civic Club has contributed to the success of the club in fundraising, the ability to make an impact in lives and gaining the respect of our community. The additional \$21,000 distributed to organizations in May 2023 is a prime example of our dedication. Thank you!

Not only is the club respected in the community, I see the respect among the members in how they rally around each other in good and not so good times. I am excited to see what great things we will do in 2023-2024.

It has been a hot summer, but I hope each of you had an opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends and are looking forward to another successful year with the club.

Several committees have met this summer to start planning their activities. As respect to the committee chairs, please respond to their emails and phone calls and attend the committee meetings and events as they are dependent on you.

To show appreciation to our teachers, who not only teach but also buy supplies for their classrooms, donations for schools will be collected at the September luncheon.

"You'll never have to apologize for respectful behavior."

**Nancy**

## *"Foundations of the Club"*

Since 1965, the Women's Civic Club has been successful because it is built on a strong foundation. The September edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is introducing the 2023-2024 Board of Directors. The Board of Directors consists of all duly elected and appointed officers, and chairmen of Standing and Appointed Committees. The Executive Board consists of the duly elected officers and the prior year's outgoing President. The Board meets the last Thursday of the month August through May at 10:00 am at the Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce Board Room. Any member is welcome to attend Board meetings but cannot vote.

## *"2023-2024 Board of Directors"*

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Roberta Bernhardt | Arts & Craft Co-Chair, Beach Care Services Liaison   |
| Kelly Bertin      | Silent Auction Co-Chair  |
| Gail Claffey      | Anchorage Children Home Liaison, Maggie Still Park Liaison                                 |
| Denice Dare       | School Projects Co-Chair   |
| Darlene Dial      | Beach Boogie Dance Co-Chair  |
| Jane Fillingim    | 2nd Vice President, Lunches & Programs Chair, Beach Boogie Dance Chair                     |
| Bobbi Griggs      | Fashion Show Chair   |
| Tammy Haight      | Silent Auction Chair, Domestic Violence Liaison  |
| Jenna Hall        | Marketing Chair  |
| Luciann Jacobs    | Community Outreach Chair   |
| Sue Jiles         | Treasurer, Special Beach Events Co-Chair, Telephone & Reservations Chair, Yearbook Liaison |
| Arlene Klaas      | 1st Vice President, Membership Chair   |
| Cheri Leistner    | Special Beach Events Chair, Member to Member Chair, Boys & Girls Club Liaison              |
| Gayle Oberst      | Parliamentarian  |
| Jeanette Poland   | Assistant Treasurer, School Projects Chair   |
| Patty Rocco       | Kitchen Chair, Member to Member Co-Chair   |
| Dena Roewe        | Community Outreach Co-Chair  |
| Julie Sanders     | Arts & Crafts Chair  |
| Nancy Stovall     | President, Library Liaison, Newsletter Liaison, Website Liaison                            |
| Monica Thomas     | Ironman Chair, Scholarship Liaison   |
| Gloria Turner     | Corresponding Secretary, Sunshine Chair, Kitchen Co-Chair, Food Pantry Liaison             |
| Kay Vider         | Marketing Co-Chair   |
| Diane Vitale      | Prior Year Outgoing President, Chamber of Commerce Liaison                                 |
| Sharon Williams   | Recording Secretary, Domestic Violence Co-Liaison  |

## *"Giving Back to the Community"*

The additional \$21,000 in funding given to Girls, Inc., Anchorage Children's Home McElvey House, Salvation Army Domestic Violence, Boys & Girls Club, three local food pantries (Gulf Beach Baptist Church, Woodlawn Church, Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church), the five beach elementary schools (Breakfast Point Academy, Hutchison Beach Elementary, Patronis Elementary, Walsingham Academy and West Bay Elementary) and an additional two scholarships to Arnold High School seniors was greatly appreciated.



**Domestic Violence Director Kim Garbett,  
Tammy Haight, Sharon Williams**



**Jenna Hall, Tammy Haight, Sue Jiles sharing with Girls, Inc**



**Cheri Leistner with Boys and Girls Club  
Latina Reed, Staff and Attendees**



**Gloria Turner with Woodlawn Food Bank Workers  
Cathy Bachman and George McNitt**



**Church at the Beach Jay Powell,  
Gloria Turner**



**Tonia Sampson with Beach  
Principal Glenda Nouskhajian**



**Joyce Kippes, Walsingham Principal  
Amy Harvey, Kelly Bertin**



**Carol Benson, Jeanette Poland, Breakfast Point  
Principal Clint Whitfield, Carol Metaxas**



**Jeanette Poland, Patronis  
Principal Brooke Loyed, Vice  
Principal Katie McKenzie, Carol  
Metaxas**



**West Bay Vice Principal Bridget Miller,  
Jayn Collins, Karen Demeester,  
Principal Deniece Moss**

In addition to the \$700 for each school, 30 short sleeved t-shirts donated by one of our members were distributed to each school for their school's clothes closet.

***"Members and Guests Enjoy May Luncheon"***

Members and guests enjoyed the May luncheon at Dee's Hangout where the 2022-2023 officers were recognized for their service and the incoming 2023-2025 officers; President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President; were installed by Cheri Leistner.

**2022-2023 Officers**



- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Treasurer               | Sue Jiles       |
| Corresponding Secretary | Gloria Turner   |
| 2nd Vice President      | Julie Sanders   |
| 1st Vice President      | Nancy Stovall   |
| President               | Diane Vitale    |
| Not Shown:              |                 |
| Recording Secretary     | Sharon Williams |

**Installation of Incoming 2023-2025 Officers**



- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| President               | Nancy Stovall   |
| 1st Vice President      | Arlene Klaas    |
| 2nd Vice President      | Jane Fillingim  |
| 2016-2018 President     | Cheri Leistner  |
| Not Shown:              |                 |
| Treasurer               | Sue Jiles       |
| Recording Secretary     | Sharon Williams |
| Corresponding Secretary | Gloria Turner   |

## *"Recognizing Years of Service"*

Arlene Klaas, 2023-2025 1st Vice President, recognizes members for their increments of 5 years of service at the May luncheon. Congratulations to the members achieving the anniversary with the club!

### 15 Years



**Arlene, Klaas, Rowan Quave**

### 5 Years



**Arlene Klaas, Darlene Dial, Gloria Turner, Eadie Lloyd Bobbi Griggs. Missing: Susan Curry, Sony Edwards, Carol Lynn, Lynn Padgett, Sharon Williams**

### 10 Years



**Arlene Klaas, Cheri Leistner**

## *"New Member Installation"*



**Sharon McDonald (Sponsor), Susan Major**



**Susan Major**

## *"Welcome New Member"*



Hi!

I am Susan Major. My husband and I moved from Acworth, Ga to Panama City Beach in December 2022. It has been our go to vacation destination since I was a child and our dream was to one day call the gulf coast our home! We love it here!

I have two grown children. My son is a surgical resident at Wake Forest and my daughter is a casting director in NYC. I am a proud mom.

I am a newly retired Registered Nurse after 30 plus years of service. It is my goal now to serve in our new community. I look forward to working with the women's civic club in making a difference in our area.

## *"Celebrating Everyday Heroes"*



**(L-R) Bryce Parris, Robert Demeester, Nathan Pickett, Bob Stegeman, Joe Walker, David Shepherd, Joey Alexander, Battalion Chief Brandon Mumford**

As we go about our daily lives, it is easy to overlook the extraordinary efforts of everyday heroes. Their impact resonates in the lives they save and the services they provide. I want to recognize and celebrate their commitment, not only during times of crisis but also for us to remember their sacrifice and also the honor they bring to their work and our community. Behind these guys in uniform stands an individual driven to make our community a safer and better place.

To give you an account of this group's willingness to serve our community from the viewpoint of our Beach Boogie event, my appeal for a "Dance With A Hero" candidate to come and dance to help us raise funds was quickly met by Fire Chief Ray Morgan. Without hesitation, on Saturday, February 4th, 2023, he dispatched a group of 7 young men hailing from Fire Station 30 to assist us. These individuals volunteered to help us raise money by engaging in a dance with the highest bidder and indeed dance they did. Their moves and grooves were nothing short of impressive not only for the highest bidder's experience but also to all those in attendance.

There's more. A seasonal visitor to our community, Mr. Bob Stegeman, a guest at our Beach Boogie "Oh What A Night" event had a remarkable affiliation with these young men. He joined the Forest Park, Ohio Fire Department in 1969. Starting out as a volunteer, he dedicated himself to the role of a Firefighter-EMT and over the years moved up to Fire Chief. His tenure as a front-line responder spanned an impressive 31 years.

As fate would have it, Mr. Stegeman challenged our own PCB first responders to a spirited twist-off and with their impressive hip moves, Chubby Checker would have been proud. These guys took the dance floor by storm, captivating and entertaining the entire audience.

There's even more to this story. I want to share with all of you that Karen Demeester, a member of our WCC family, holds the distinction of being the Mom of first responder Robert (Rob) Demeester. You can spot the dashing handsome Rob as the second from the left in the photo above. Karen and her husband Dave radiate with pride as proud parents.

So the next time you see a firetruck racing down the road, take a moment to contemplate the commitment of these fine men and say a prayer for their safety. I am humbled by their service and I stand in awe of their dedication to our community.

Jane Fillingim

## *"Fulfilling Our Mission of Improving Life in Panama City Beach Community"*

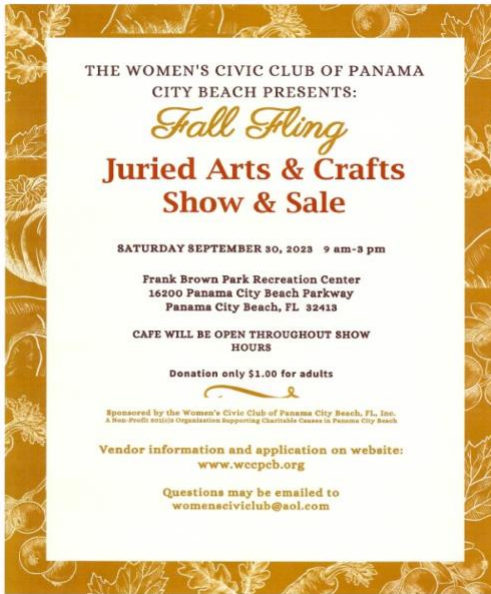
### ***Raising Funds***

#### **Fall Fling Arts and Craft Show and Fair**

Fall Fling - Saturday, September 30, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Frank Brown Park Recreation Center

Join us for our second Fall Fling! We have a full house of vendors with many new and unique handcrafted items. Get your holiday shopping done early!



Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to shop and help make our event a big success!! Please share our event on your social media, with neighbors, friends, family, your church, and any other organizations you may belong to! We have the vendors, now we need customers!!

**Ironman**

Save the dates:

- November 4, 2023                      Ironman Florida
- December 2, 2023                      PCB Marathon
- May 11, 2024                              Ironman Gulf Coast

**Special Beach Events**

The Special Beach Events Committee is getting right to work this year. We will be working for the TDC at The Pirates and Renaissance Fair selling beer. Times and dates are:

- Friday, Oct. 6: 3:30 – 8:30pm,
- Saturday, Oct. 7: 10:00am – 3:00pm and 3:00pm – 8 pm.
- Sunday, Oct. 8: 11:30am – 5:00pm

If you can volunteer to help with this fundraiser, please contact Sue Jiles ([ssjiles@aols.com](mailto:ssjiles@aols.com)) or Cheri Leistner ([cheri@advantagesoutheast.com](mailto:cheri@advantagesoutheast.com)). Your help is greatly appreciated!! Spouses and friends are also welcome to join us.

*"Supporting the Community"*

**Community Outreach**



**Items Donated by Members**



**Karen Demeester, Gail Claffey, Sharon McDonald, Lucian Jacobs**

Items donated by our members and supplemented with items purchased by the Community Outreach Committee were placed in colorful bags and delivered to the residents of Charter Senior Living. The gift bags contained socks, activity books, lotions and snacks.

### McElvey House - Anchorage Children's Home



Erica Butler, Gail Claffey

The Women's Civic Club supported McElvey House with the purchase of a grill and contributions for the purchase of a basketball hoop.



Gail Claffey, Erica Butler

### Scholarships

Nancy Stovall, President and Gloria Turner, Scholarship Chair represented the Women's Civic Club on May 19, 2023, and had the honor of presenting four scholarships to Arnold High School graduating students. Our members work on various fundraisers throughout the year to support local charities, educational institutions, and safety and support organizations. Our educational support also includes Panama City beach elementary schools, Arnold High School Culinary and Hospitality Programs and scholarships, through endowments, at Gulf Coast College.



Caitlyn Noble



Anna-Katherine Risalvato

**Gracelynn Fisher** transferred to Arnold High School from a small town in Illinois in her junior year (military transfer). Her community service area concentrated on mental health and she plans on majoring in the field of Psychology.

**Caitlyn Noble** interned in the summer of 2022 in a Science and Engineering Program. She will attend Florida State University, Panama City with a major in Mechanical Engineering. She comes from a military family and wants to continue that legacy. Her goal is to work at the Naval Surface Warfare Center here in Panama City Beach.

**Anna-Katherine Risalvato** has an extensive background in dance and was founder of a 501C (3) nonprofit called Dance 4 All, Inc. She wants to become a Sports Trainer and plans to attend the University of Florida with a dual major in Dance and Applied Physiology and Kinesiology.

**James Sanchez** plans to study cyber-security at the University of West Florida. His application included "My reason for applying for the scholarship is because it is open to everyone. I don't know why I should be awarded this scholarship over other students, but I do know I worked hard to make my parents proud".

### School Projects

The School Projects Committee will be collecting for the five elementary schools we support. Items they are requesting for members to bring are:

- \* Lysol Wipes
  - \* Lysol Aerosol
  - \* 24 Count Crayons
  - \* Kleenex Tissues
  - \* Paper Towels
  - \* 12 Count Colored Pencils
  - \* Gallon Size Ziplock Bags
  - \* Glue Sticks (not liquid)
  - \* Colored Construction Paper
- \* Cash Donations will also be accepted

October Luncheon Donations will be for Domestic Violence.

### *"Spending Time Together"*

#### Member to Member

Thanks to ALL that came out to Taylor's Restaurant to play Bunco with us during the summer! We had games in June, July and August that were well attended by many members and guests. It was wonderful to get the time to see everyone and to keep in touch during this down time for the club. Special THANKS go to Patty Rocco for organizing each event and making sure there were plenty of door prizes and game prizes!! And we greatly appreciate Taylor's for hosting us each time. What a great meeting room to play in and there is always a delicious lunch.



**Doris Bayliss**



**Jayn Collins**



**Susan Curry**



**Sherrill Kelley**



**Cheri Leistner, Kay Vider, Donna McElroy, Julie Sanders, Monica Thomas, Lynn Padgett, Sara Green, Carole Ohlemueller, Patty Rocco**



**Rhonda Zartman, Alisa Walley, Gail Claffey, Nancy Stovall, Carole Ohlemueller, Gloria Turner, Jayn Collins**





**Sheryl Lewis**



**Tracey Miller (guest)**



**Gloria Turner**



**Alisa Walley**

Prize

Most Wins  
Most Losses  
Most Bunco's  
Last Bunco  
Door Prizes

June 7

Jayn Collins  
Susan Curry  
Gloria Turner  
Alisa Walley  
Doris Bayliss  
Jayn Collins  
Sherrill Kelley  
Sheryl Lewis  
Tracey Miller (guest)  
Gloria Turner

July 12

Monica Thomas  
Patty Rocco  
Julie Sanders  
Donna McElroy  
Sara Green (guest)  
Cheri Leistner  
Donna McElroy  
Carole Ohlemueller  
Lynn Padgett  
Kay Vider

August 9

Gail Claffey  
Alisa Walley  
Nancy Stovall  
Gloria Turner  
Brenda Bryson  
Jayn Collins  
Carole Ohlemueller  
Gloria Turner  
Alisa Walley  
Rhonda Zartman

The Member to Member Committee will be planning other fun activities for our members during the coming year. We can't wait!

***In Our Thoughts and Prayers***

Thoughts and prayers to Flo Watson and her family, in the loss their mother Edith Ellis on July 24, 2023.

Edith moved to Panama City Beach from Birmingham, Alabama in 1977 to join the love of her life, James H. Ellis, aka "Red". Together they owned and operated a small family motel. She also worked over twenty years for Ralston Purina.

As a fashionista, Edith loved walking the runway in the annual club fashion show. Her other club interests included the annual Christmas Parade; selling T-shirts, designed by Paul Brent, at the annual Seafood Festival; and assisting children in the West Bay area.

**Edith Ellis,  
Flo Watson**



**Edith Ellis**

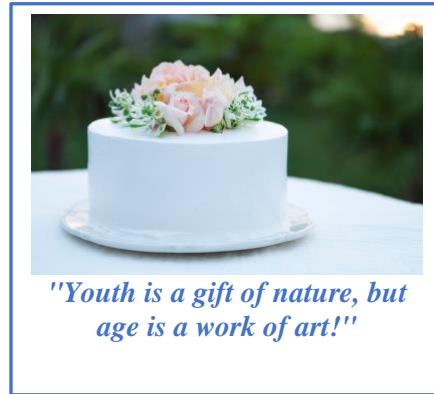


## *"Recognizing our Members"*

### **Happy Birthday Wishes!!**

#### **September**

01 Denice Dare  
14 Lynn Padgett  
23 Clara Register  
29 Tonia Sampson  
30 Jean Sturman



## *"In Appreciation"*

#### **From: Summer Kendall, Manager of Donor Relations, Girls Inc.**

Dear Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach,

A sincere thank you for your donation of \$5000.00 on 5/26/2023, to help support Girls Inc. of Bay County! Because of community partners like you, we can continue to provide after-school, summer, and outreach programming for hundreds of girls in our area. Our Centers are a safe place for girls to go where they are supported by peers, teachers, and mentors. They learn to value themselves, take risks, and develop confidence through research-based programming in areas such as STEM, economic literacy, health and wellness, stress management, and others. Thanks again for your support. Please don't hesitate to reach out to discuss more ways we can partner as we continue this important work!

#### **From: Beth Reedy, Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Community Food Pantry**

Many thanks to the members of the Women's Civic Club for your continued support of our Community Food Pantry. Your consistent generous donations of food and money are so greatly appreciated. We cannot express how these donations help us to continue our mission of helping those in need of our community. Again, we cannot thank you all enough for your unending generosity.

Please share with all of your members our sincere appreciation for all you do to help support our Community Food Pantry.

May the Lord Bless and keep you and yours, making us all ever so mindful of the needs of others.

#### **From: Anna-Katherine Risalvato, Arnold High School Senior Scholarship Recipient**

Thank you so much for selecting me as a scholarship winner. I am so honored to be chosen by such an amazing organization. Love.

#### **From: Major Edward Binnix, Salvation Army - Domestic Violence**

We recently received your gift of \$2,000.00 on 5/31/2023. Thank you!

Your gift will help us continue our efforts to provide comfort, hope, and much-needed assistance to thousands of families and individuals. As always, we pledge to do the most good with the resources that you have entrusted to our care.

You play a significant role in The Salvation Army's mission of meeting human needs, for it is only possible because of your compassion and generosity. We are thankful that you have chosen to place your confidence in us through your generous gift and for your partnership in assisting those in need. With friends like you, we can continue to do our work in areas where it is needed - as long as it is needed. May God bless you as you continue to bless others.

## *"Upcoming Events"*

- Aug 31 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- Sept 7 Luncheon Meeting at Springhill Suites by Marriott-12513 Front Beach Road, 11AM
- Sept 30 Fall Fling Arts and Craft Show and Fair, Frank Brown Park, 9AM-3PM

## *"The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach, Inc"*

### **Contact Information**

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### **This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort**

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   Tammy Haight                      Jeanette Poland                      Gloria Turner

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